WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method of processing a data stream with a computer system, the method

2   comprising:

3   receiving the data stream using a browser application;

4   detecting a content type of data in the data stream;

5   temporarily overriding a default rendering process otherwise associated with the

6   content type detected for the data in the data stream by associating a particular rendering

7   process with the data stream based on the type of data in the data stream; and

8   routing the data stream to the particular rendering process.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the content type of data is a Multipurpose Internet

2   Mail Extension (MIME) type.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the default rendering process is identified in a registry

2   of the computer system.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the data steam is received in response to a request

2   from the browser application.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein temporarily overriding the default rendering process

2   includes:

3   discriminating among internal and external instances of the browser application used

4   to receive the data stream; and

5   temporarily overriding the default rendering process if the browser application is an

6   internal instance.

1   6.   The method of claim 5 further comprising routing the data stream to the default

2   rendering process if the browser application is an external instance.

1   7.   The method of claim 5 wherein the default rendering process is identified in a registry

2   of the computer, and wherein temporarily overriding the default rendering process includes

3 supplementing the registry of the computer with the particular rendering process if the

4 browser application is an internal instance.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

2 processing the data stream with the temporary rendering process; and

3 upon completing of the processing, disassociating the temporary rendering process

4 with the type of data in the data stream.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising redefining the content type after routing

2 the data stream to prevent subsequent processing of the data stream by the default rendering.

1 10. A method of processing a data stream with a computer system, comprising:

2 receiving a data stream using a browser application;

3 identifying a stream type for the data stream; and

4 directing the data stream away from a data process designated as a default by the

5 computer system based on the data type identified for the data stream.

1 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising determining whether a browser is

2 embedded as an internal instance of a software application, such that the data stream is

3 directed to a data process other than the default when the browser is determined to be an

4 internal instance.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the data type is a Multipurpose Internet Mail

2 Extensions (MIME) type.

1 13. A method comprising:

2 calling a data stream using a browser running on a computer system;

3 detecting a first type of data associated with the data stream called by the browser;

4 and

5 redefining the first type of data as a second type of data.

1   14.   The method of claim 13 wherein the first type of data and the second type of data are

2   Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) standard types.

1   15.   The method of claim 14 further comprising loading a MIME filter into an operating

2   system of the computer.

1   16.   The method of claim 15 further comprising receiving notification in the browser that

2   a data stream is available for filtering by the MIME filter.

1   17.   The method of claim 15 further comprising activating multimedia subsystem player

2   running on the computer system to render the data stream.

1   18.   The method of claim 17 further comprising passing the data stream to the player.

1   19.   A computer program for processing a data stream with a computer system, stored on

2   a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

3   receiving the data stream using a browser application;

4   detecting a content type of data in the data stream;

5   temporarily overriding a default rendering process otherwise associated with the

6   content type detected for the data in the data stream by associating a particular rendering

7   process with the data stream based on the type of data in the data stream; and

8   routing the data stream to the particular rendering process.

1   20.   The computer program of claim 19 wherein the content type of data is a Multipurpose

2   Internet Mail Extension (MIME) type.

1   21.   The computer program of claim 19 wherein the default rendering process is identified

2   in a registry of the computer system.

1   22.   The computer program of claim 19 wherein the data steam is received in response to

2   a request from the browser application.

1   23.   The computer program of claim 19 wherein temporarily overriding the default

2   rendering process includes:

3   discriminating among internal and external instances of the browser application used

4   to receive the data stream; and

5   temporarily overriding the default rendering process if the browser application is an

6   internal instance.

1   24.   The computer program of claim 23 further comprising routing the data stream to the

2   default rendering process if the browser application is an external instance.

1   25.   The computer program of claim 23 wherein the default rendering process is identified

2   in a registry of the computer, and wherein temporarily overriding the default rendering

3   process includes supplementing the registry of the computer with the particular rendering

4   process if the browser application is an internal instance.

1   26.   The computer program of claim 25 further comprising:

2   processing the data stream with the temporary rendering process; and

3   upon completing of the processing, disassociating the temporary rendering process

4   from the type of data in the data stream.

1   27.   The computer program of claim 19 further comprising redefining the content type

2   after routing the data stream to prevent subsequent processing of the data stream by the

3   default rendering.

1   28.   A computer program for processing a data stream with a computer system, stored on

2   a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

3   receiving a data stream using a browser application;

4   identifying a stream type for the data stream; and

5   directing the data stream away from a data process designated as a default by the

6   computer system based on the data type identified for the data stream.

1   29.   The computer program of claim 28 further comprising determining whether a browser

2   is embedded as an internal instance of a software application such that the data stream is

3   directed to a data process other than the default when the browser is determined to be an

4   internal instance.

1   30.   The computer program of claim 28 wherein the data type is a Multipurpose Internet

2   Mail Extensions (MIME) type.

1   31.   A computer program for processing a data stream with a computer system, stored on

2   a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

3   calling a data stream using a browser running on a computer system;

4   detecting a first type of data associated with the data stream called by the browser;

5   and

6   redefining the first type of data as a second type of data.

1   32.   The computer program of claim 31 wherein the first type of data and the second type

2   of data are Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) standard types.

1   33.   The computer program of claim 32 further comprising loading a MIME filter into an

2   operating system of the computer.

1   34.   The computer program of claim 33 further comprising receiving notification in the

2   browser that a data stream is available for filtering by the MIME filter.

1   35.   The computer program of claim 33 further comprising activating multimedia

2   subsystem player running on the computer system to render the data stream.

1   36.   The computer program of claim 35 further comprising passing the data stream to the

2   player.